Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain management framework, comprising:

a)   <u>a supply chain management computer</u> receiving data from a plurality of <u>independent franchise</u> outlets of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of <u>perishable food</u> products sold by the <u>independent franchise</u> outlets <u>during a perishable food product promotion</u>;

b)   <u>generating a forecast of perishable food product sales for a remainder of the perishable food product promotion</u>;

c)   <u>the supply chain management computer calculating a surplus of perishable food products at the independent franchise outlet based on the forecast of perishable food product sales and current inventory</u>;

d)   making the <u>surplus of perishable food products</u>~~data~~ accessible to the <u>independent franchise</u> outlets, distributors, and suppliers <u>of the supply chain</u> utilizing a network based interface; and

e)   <u>the supply chain management computer</u> auctioning surplus <u>perishable food</u> products from at least one of the <u>independent franchise</u> outlets utilizing the network-based interface.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein <u>the supply chain management computer auctions the perishable food products only to</u> the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers <u>in the supply chain</u>~~are provided access to the network-based interface~~.

7.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, wherein <u>the supply chain management computer auctions the perishable food products only to</u> the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers <u>in the supply chain</u>~~are provided access to the network-based interface~~.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based interface.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the network includes the Internet.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the auctioning is initiated in response to one of the outlets closing.

11.   (Currently amended) A computer program product for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain management framework, comprising:

<u>a set of computer usable media having computer readable program code embodied therein to be executed by a computer, the computer readable program code comprising:</u>

a)   computer code for <u>a supply chain management computer</u> receiving data from a plurality of <u>independent franchise</u> outlets of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of <u>perishable food</u> products sold by the <u>independent franchise</u> outlets <u>during a perishable food product promotion</u>;

b)   <u>computer code for generating a forecast of perishable food product sales for a remainder of the perishable food product promotion;</u>

c)   <u>computer code for the supply chain management computer calculating a surplus of perishable food products at the independent franchise outlet based on the forecast of perishable food product sales and current inventory;</u>

d)   computer code for making the <u>surplus of perishable food products</u>~~data~~ accessible to the <u>independent franchise</u> outlets, distributors, and suppliers <u>of the supply chain</u> utilizing a network based interface; and

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e)   computer code for the supply chain management computer auctioning surplus perishable food products from at least one of the independent franchise outlets utilizing the network-based interface.

12.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the supply chain management computer auctions the perishable food products only to the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers in the supply chain are provided access to the network-based interface.

13.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based interface.

14.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the network includes the Internet.

15.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the auctioning is initiated in response to one of the outlets closing.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based interface.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the auctioning is initiated in response to one of the outlets closing.

6.   (Currently amended) A system for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain management framework, comprising:
        an electronic storage; and

        a set of processors that use the electronic storage and include among them the following logic elements

        a)   logic for a supply chain management computer receiving data from a plurality of independent franchise outlets of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of perishable food products sold by the independent franchise outlets during a perishable food product promotion;

        b)   logic for generating a forecast of perishable food product sales for a remainder of the perishable food product promotion;

        c)   logic for the supply chain management computer calculating a surplus of perishable food products at the independent franchise outlet based on the forecast of perishable food product sales and current inventory;

        d)   logic for making the surplus of perishable food productsdata accessible to the independent franchise outlets, distributors, and suppliers of the supply chain utilizing a network based interface; and

        e)   logic for the supply chain management computer auctioning surplus perishable food products from at least one of the independent franchise outlets utilizing the network-based interface.

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